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Book Reviews

THE LOEB CLASSICAL LIBRARY

For two years and more the reading public has been hearing with increasing interest of the plan projected by Mr. James Loeb of giving to the world once more a complete edition of the Greek and Latin classics, from the time of Homer to the fall of Constantinople, and of presenting with these for the first time a complete English translation. The stupendous nature of this task is the first thing that strikes us. The text and translation combined will require over two hundred volumes, which it is proposed to issue at the rate of twenty volumes per year. The best text editions available have been selected, and the translations, while in some cases reprints, are for the most part wholly new, prepared especially for this series. The Library is to be published by William Heinemann, London, and the Macmillan Company, New York.

Mr. Loeb's own statement of the considerations which prompted him to this great undertaking is worthy of wide recognition. He says:

My imagination was deeply stirred by the thought that here might be found a practical and attractive way to revive the lagging interest in ancient literature which has for more than a generation been a matter of so much concern to educators. In an age when the Humanities are being neglected more perhaps than at any time since the Middle Ages, and when men's minds are turning more than ever before to the practical and material, it does not suffice to make pleas, however eloquent and convincing, for the safeguarding and further enjoyment of our greatest heritage from the past. Means must be found to place these treasures within the reach of all who care for the finer things of life. The mechanical and social achievements of our day must not blind our eyes to the fact that, in all that relates to man, his nature and aspirations, we have added little or nothing to what has been said so finely by the great men of old,

The history of attempts to present in translation the classics as a whole is thus summed up by Mr. Loeb:

In France more than in any country the need has been felt of supplying readers who are not in a technical sense "scholars" with editions of the classics, giving text and translations on opposite pages. Almost all the Latin authors and many Greek authors have been published in this way by the well-known firms, Panckoucke, Firmin-Didot, Hachette, and Garnier. In Germany only a handful of Greek authors were issued in this form during the first half of the nineteenth century. No collection of this kind exists in English-speaking countries.

The present series is under the general editorial management of Mr. T. E. Page, M.A., until recently a master at the Charterhouse School, and Mr. W. H. D. Rouse, Litt. D., headmaster of the Perse Grammar School, in Cambridge, England. These editors are assisted by an advisory board of ten eminent classical scholars, distributed as follows: United States, three, England, three, France, two, Germany, two. The advisory members from our own country

are Professor Capps of Princeton, Professor Hale of Chicago, and Professor White of Harvard.

The second thing that strikes us in considering this series is its immense value to the cause of classical studies. It will give the greatest impetus, so far as material apparatus can give impetus, to classical interests since the invention of printing and the spreading broadcast of classical texts in the late years of the fifteenth century. For, while the classical authors have been available to scholars all these centuries, still to the reading public the most of these authors have been as inaccessible and as much a sealed book as were the scattered Greek and Latin manuscripts to the Middle Ages. And we have every right to expect that this provision of excellent translations in attractive form will produce a general revival of public interest in classical reading. The series will appeal to many classes of people: to the classical scholar, who will welcome this complete and authentic uniform version of the texts, and the opportunity afforded by these volumes of comparing without inconvenience the translations with the original; to the student, who would gladly read more rapidly and widely than his limited attainments permit, and yet who desires to remain in touch with the original; and to the general reader, who, while he knows no Latin and Greek, still has classical tastes, and who will welcome this door thrown wide open to the entire field of classical literature. Many a worker in the problems of education will welcome the chance to read such authors as Aristotle and Quintilian; and scientists, economists, and historians will find rich fields freely accessible which have hitherto been closed to them.

The pertinency of the classic literature and life to us moderns is well stated in the preliminary announcement of the editors of the series:

There is no newspaper or magazine, no speech, no sermon, even in these practical, utilitarian days, free from allusions to the classics. The poetry of Homer and Virgil, the philosophy of Plato and Aristotle, the histories of Thucydides, Livy, and Tacitus, the oratory of Demosthenes and Cicero, are with us today as they have always been. Situations and affairs as they were in Athens and Rome seem to be repeated in our own daily life, so that the comments of classic writers reflect on the things and men of today. Suffragists were in Athens and land agitators in Rome in those days, as they are in London and New York today, and they afforded good material for the dramatist and satirist then as now. Sophocles and Euripides have recently held spellbound modern theater-goers.

An interesting announcement as to the plans for the order of publication follows:

In selecting the volumes for publication it will be the aim of the editors to offer, as far as possible, a considerable variety each year. The list will include examples not only of the standard authors of the classical periods of Greece and Rome, but also authors of the later periods, perhaps less known to the general reader but hardly less interesting; and attention will also be given to variety of subject-matter, both in poetry and prose. The list for 1912, for instance, ranges from the fifth century before Christ to the fourth century of our era, and embraces specimens, in poetry, of the Greek tragedians and epic poets, and of the Roman tragedians and comedians, lyric

and elegiac poets, and, in prose, of the later Greek historians, essayists, biographers, orators, and writers of the early Christian church, and of representatives of two great periods of Latin, Cicero and St. Augustine.

The library will be issued in neat volumes of $7\frac{1}{4}\frac{1}{2}$ inches, of 400 to 600 pages each, printed in clear type on feather weight paper and bound in flexible cloth and leather, price \$1.50 net in cloth, and \$2.00 net in leather. The Latin volumes will be bound in red, and the Greek volumes in green.

The volumes already issued have been announced in the December and January numbers of the current volume of the *Classical Journal*.

F. J. MILLER

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Thucydides and the History of His Age. By G. B. GRUNDY, D. Litt. London: John Murray, 1911. Pp. xix+553. 16s. net.

This work is, in a sense, a companion volume to the *Great Persian War* by the same author, but the present work is much larger in scope.

After an introductory chapter on "The Nature of Thucydides' Work" the book is divided into six parts supplemented by an appendix of nearly one hundred and fifty pages. Part I deals with the "Life of Thucydides" (pp. 11-47); Part II, The "General Reliability of the Received Text of Thucydides" (pp. 48-57); Part III, the "Economic Background of Greek History" (pp. 58-211); Part IV, the "Policy of Sparta in the Fifth Century" (pp. 212-39); Part V, the "Art of War during the Latter Half of the Fifth Century" (pp. 240-314); Part VI, the "Causes and Strategy of the Ten Years' War" (pp. 315-83). This summary gives some idea of the wide scope of the work, which is nothing less than a complete treatment of the social and economic conditions of the time of Thucydides, as well as the art of war. The work contains a veritable wilderness of information—it is one that no student of Thucydides can overlook, whether he is dealing with public antiquities or text criticism.

If one were to pass an adverse criticism, it would be that the book is too detailed and that much of the matter is but loosely connected with the subject of the work. The "Economic Background" is the longest of the divisions and to some extent colors the rest. So much has been made of the economic basis of history lately that it is but to be expected that it would be applied to Thucydides, but I must confess that I agree with Mr. Dickins (*Class. Quart.*, V, p. 238 ff.) that Mr. Grundy is mistaken in finding the cause for the Peloponnesian War in Athens' need of a corn supply in the West and in ignoring the "imperial cause" assigned by Thucydides himself.

The Appendix, on "The Composition of Thucydides' History," is very complete, discussing the problem from all points of view and contributing a good deal of new light on the subject. Mr. Grundy concludes that the history of the "Ten Years' War" was written during the Peace of Nicias under the